



# ABN E-NEWS

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**Alabama Board of Nursing**  
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## A Look Back on the 2017 Regular Legislative Session

*Peggy Sellers Benson, RN, MSHA, MSN, NE-BC*  
*Executive Officer*

The 2017 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature adjourned on Friday, May 19. Following is a look back on how Board initiatives fared during the session:

### Stable Funding for Graduate Scholarships and the Loan Repayment Program for Advanced Practice Nursing

I am pleased to report that the Legislature awarded the Board \$166,027 for graduate scholarships and \$450,000 for the Loan Repayment Program for Advanced Practice Nursing. The ABN uses only existing resources to administer these programs, so all funds received are directed to students.

### SB131—Changes to Article 5 of the Nurse Practice Act

The Board proposed changes to the Alabama Nurse Practice Act to bring Alabama language more into line with national trends and practice. Unfortunately, due to a large amount of misinformation spread among various nursing groups, as well as a general lack of political will and cooperation within the profession, the Board elected to put this proposal on hold until the 2018 Regular Session.

### SB132/HB256—Rule-making Authority for ABN

This legislation would have clarified the Board's legal authority to make rules governing nursing practice and education. Unfortunately, while the bill encountered no opposition, it did not receive final passage prior to adjournment of the session.

### SB133/HB254—ABN Peace Officer Powers

This bill would have recognized ABN investigators as certified peace officers for purposes of enforcing the Nurse Practice Act. Much like SB132, as time expired on the session, it was not brought up for final consideration in the House of Representatives.

### SB134/HB255—Loan Repayment Program Expansion

The Board proposed expanding the new Loan Repayment Program for Advanced Practice Nursing to allow recent graduates to participate. As

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## ABN Leadership Institute Update

Vicki Hill, MSN, RN, Nurse Consultant, former Leadership Institute Director

As a part of the ABN's New Direction, the Leadership Institute is becoming a reality. Many of you have responded to previous surveys requesting your opinion on which characteristics you felt were important for nursing leadership. We took your responses, along with already developed leadership competencies from the American Nurses Association (2013) and the American Organization of Nurse Executives (2015), to develop the six competencies that will be used for the Leadership Institute. These six competencies are:

Effective Communication  
Conflict Resolution  
Proficiency in Nursing Regulation  
Collaboration  
Critical Thinking  
Innovative Leadership



### Leadership Institute Framework

Within the mandate of protecting the public, the Alabama Board of Nursing finds it essential to cultivate strong nursing leaders. Effective nursing leaders will constructively influence any patient care setting, and will foster a thriving healthcare environment to increase public protection considering all potential stakeholders.

The Leadership Institute Framework is built on the statement: *Within the mandate of protecting the public, the Alabama Board of Nursing finds it essential to cultivate strong nursing leaders. Effective nursing leaders will constructively influence any patient care setting, and will foster a thriving healthcare environment to increase public protection considering all potential stakeholders.*

Within these six competency areas, we will offer courses designed for four different levels of nursing leadership – charge nurses, nurse managers, nursing directors and chief nursing officers. The courses will be offered online and via live classes at the ABN in Montgomery. The classes will be open to anyone wishing to develop their leadership skills. Stay tuned to the ABN website and social media for future announcements regarding the launch of the Leadership Institute.

### References

- American Organization of Nurse Executives. (2015). *AONE Nurse Leader Competencies*. Retrieved from AONE The Voice of Nursing Leadership: <http://www.aone.org/resources/nurse-leader-competencies.shtml>
- ANA LI Advisory Council. (2013, August). *ANA Leadership Institute Competency Model*. Retrieved from ANA Enterprise Nursing Knowledge Center: [https://learn.ana-nursingknowledge.org/template/ana/publications\\_pdf/leadershipInstitute\\_competency\\_model\\_brochure.pdf](https://learn.ana-nursingknowledge.org/template/ana/publications_pdf/leadershipInstitute_competency_model_brochure.pdf)

**Progress on Advanced Practice**  
*Peggy Sellers Benson, RN, MSHA, MSN, NE-BC*  
*Executive Officer*

Over the past several years, advanced practice nursing has been a major focus of the Board and the Board staff. This month, I thought it would be helpful to take a look back on the progress that we have made in striving toward clearing the path for Alabama AP nurses to practice to the full extent of their training and scope of practice. Following is a brief list of initiatives and accomplishments logged since 2014:

- Revised and substantially broadened the standard protocols, tailoring protocols to individual certifications. This eliminated many individual requests for skills and procedures and facilitated rapid approval of applications, reducing regulatory burdens on AP nursing practice.
- Designed new online collaborative practice applications, replacing a 15-page paper application with 4 online pages.
- Implemented 30-day electronic notice for expiring certifications.
- Began issuing real-time automated cease and desist letters for lapsed AP approval, reducing the instance of nurses accidentally practicing during gaps in approval.
- Implemented automated approval letters for collaborative practice.
- Posted comprehensive advanced practice FAQs to the ABN website.
- Revised and approved the CRNP/CMN collaborative practice rules and regulations, reducing the need for oversight supervision (novice to expert).
- Decreased the two formularies to one standard formulary.
- Developed CRNP/CNM application approval guidelines to reduce wait time between application and approval.
- Changed the Board's practice regarding limited incidents of failure to provide certification in a timely manner (certification is current, but failure to notify the Board within 30 days). Current practice dictates that nurses who fall short of the required notification be issued a letter of admonishment.
- Changed website discipline history (Public Action) to "encumbrance history," as opposed to "public action." As reprimands do not represent active encumbrances against licenses, they are no longer displayed in License Lookup.
- 2017 - proposed legislation to enable the Board to expunge certain relatively minor disciplinary records. However, the Senate Health and Human Services Committee declined to consider the bill unless the expungement language was removed.
- Created a credentialing staff access portal to validate CP approval status and collaborating/covering physician and protocol approvals to facilitate CP employment.
- Implemented an APRN advisory council with an action plan completed. Wrote several letters of support to governmental agencies, etc., as requested by the committee.
- Created Collaborative Practice Agreement (within the protocol) to meet credentialing staff and practice documentation needs, as well as competency validation documentation. This aids the nurse in collaborative practice in responding to audits and other inquiries.
- Created a New Skill Request form/process for nurses in collaborative practice to request new procedures and skills.
- Worked with the Medical Association of the State of Alabama to provide ABN provider CE for controlled substances and automate the hours to APRN CE records.

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## **Progress on Advanced Practice** (Continued from Page 3)

- Sharpened focus on AP nursing issues in virtually all Board communications.
- Provided certification exam resources, with organizational links on the website.
- Revised CP rules and regulations to allow expedited partner therapy (EPT), which expanded prescribing to certain non-patient partners to improve patient outcomes and care.
- 2016 – with legislative approval, implemented a loan repayment program for APRNs (\$12,000 loans annually to work 18 months in a rural area of Alabama).
- 2017 – proposed legislation to implement the APRN consensus model language changes (not successful).
- Led and implemented changes to ASNA's nominating committee structure for Board vacancies, to ensure that AP nursing and nursing leadership are represented and consulted when nominations are brought forward.

As you can see, advanced practice has come a long way in our state, but much remains to be done. You can be sure that the ABN will continue at the forefront of the effort to expand and improved conditions for advanced practice in Alabama.

## **Alabama CRNA Renewal in 2017**

*Dawn B. Daniel, MSN, RN*

*Director—Advanced Practice*

### **NBCRNA Certification**

Does your certification expire **July 31, 2017**? If you are unsure, check out the [MyProfile](#) section of the Alabama Board of Nursing (ABN) website; it will display the status and expiration dates for your RN license and your CRNA certification. If the Board has not received and processed verification of your recertification from NBCRNA by close of business on July 31, 2017, the CRNA approval will lapse and require reinstatement, not to mention the interruption in practice. NBCRNA provides electronic reporting of recertification to the ABN. However, to avoid any delay in processing, we encourage you to have your verification sent to the Board by close of business on **Friday, July 28, 2017**.

In addition to license and certification status, **MyProfile** allows you to change contact information, sign up for List Serv messages, and monitor/upload your Continuing Education (CE) credits. CE awarded by Alabama Board of Nursing Providers (ABNP) is posted to your CE record by the provider. You are required to upload all other CE credits directly to your CE record through **MyProfile**, which includes instructions.

## **A Look Back on the 2017 Regular Legislative Session**

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was the case with the previously mentioned ABN legislative priorities, SB 134 enjoyed broad support in the Legislature, but simply did not make the calendar prior to adjournment.

As you can see, the 2017 Regular Session was a mixed bag of success and disappointment for the ABN, but we will be back next year with similar proposals to strengthen our profession. I look forward to joining with other nurses in our state as we continue to move Alabama nursing ahead in the coming years.